The People's Korea

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Elections to DPRK City & County People's Assemblies Held

President Kim Il Sung on Nov. 15 casts a vote at constituency No. 121 for the elections of deputies to the Pyongsong City People's Assembly of South Pyongan Province. (Rodong Sinmun, Nov. 16, 1987)

Elections of deputies to the city and county people's assemblies which began on the morning of Nov. 15 all over the DPRK were completed at 8:00 in the evening, and 100 percent of the electors, except those on foreign tour, took part in the poll and 100 percent of them voted for the candidates of deputies registered at the constituencies.

The elections were held strictly in accordance with the regulations of elections of deputies to the people's assemblies of all levels of the DPRK.

Elected to the city and county people's assemblies were 26,539 deputies.

The electors who could not go to the polls due to old age or illness cast their ballots into travelling boxes.

President Kim Il Sung on the day cast a vote at constituency No. 121 for the elections of deputies to the Pyongsong City People's Assembly of South Pyongan Province.

He was accompanied to the polling station by Secretary Kim Jong Il, Minister of People's Armed Forces O Jin U, Premier Li Gun Mo, Secretary Yon Hyong Muk and Vice Premier Hong Song Nam.

President Kim Il Sung, Secretary Kim Jong Il Meet Soviet Envoy

President Kim Il Sung, together with Secretary Kim Jong Il, received Nikolai Shubnikov, Soviet ambassador to Korea, who paid a farewell call on the DPRK President.

Present on the occasion were Kang Sok Ju, first vice minister of foreign affairs, and officials of the Soviet embassy in Korea.

The President had a cordial and friendly conversation with the ambassador.

(KCNA)

Polish Foreign Minister Visits Pyongyang

Polish Foreign Minister Marian Orzechowski visited Pyongyang from Nov. 16 to 19 for an official goodwill visit to the DPRK at the invitation of the DPRK government.

President Kim Il Sung on Nov. 19 received the Polish foreign minister.

On the evening of Nov. 16, the DPRK government arranged a banquet at the Mansudae Assembly Hall in honor of the Polish foreign minister.

Referring to the progress of the friendly relations between the two countries, the Polish foreign minister said in his banquet speech, "We appreciate that the mutual relations between the two countries have entered a new higher stage since the visit of Comrade Kim Il Sung to Poland in May 1984 and the visit of Comrade Wojciech Jaruzelski to the DPRK in September 1986."

"We welcome the proposals of the DPRK for the establishment of a nuclear-free, peace zone on the Korean Peninsula and the phased arms reduction in the north and the south," he said.

On Nov. 18, a plan for cooperation for 1987-1991 between the foreign ministries of the DPRK and the Polish People's Republic was signed.

The plan was signed by DPRK Foreign Minister Kim Yong Nam and Polish Foreign Minister Marian Orzechowski.

On Nov. 19, a ceremony for awarding order of the DPRK to Foreign Minister Orzechowski was held.

Vice President Rim Chun Chu awarded the Friendship Order First Class of the DPRK to him.

Pyongyang Hails Release Of ANC Leader

The International Affairs Department of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea sent a congratulatory letter to the Executive Committee of the African National Congress of South Africa upon the release of one of its leaders Goban Mbeki, the KCNA reported on Nov. 15.

Mr. Goban Mbeki had been kept in prison for 23 years by the South African racists and was released recently.

The letter said that his release is a common victory won by the ANC and the democratic forces of South Africa and peoples of the southern African frontline states and other revolutionary countries of the world in the struggle against the South African racist regime.

It stressed that the WPK and the Korean people strongly demand that the South African racists repeal at once all the fascist laws including "the law on emergency state" and "ordinance on the ban of political rallies", and expressed firm solidarity with the ANC in the struggle against the suppression and apartheid policy of the Botha regime and for national rights and freedom.

"We also warmly support the stand of the parties and governments of the southern African frontline states for taking sweeping sanctions against the South African racist regime which wantonly violates the sovereignty of the people of the southern African countries and destroys peace and stability in the region," it said.

Botha Regime Hit

Rodong Sinmun, organ of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, on Nov. 16 in a short commentary said:

South African President Botha, much upset by the world public demanding the release of political prisoners and liquidation of racism, is doing his all sundry affairs in his desperate attempt to tone it down with a talk about there being no political prisoner. However, nothing would come of it. It is as good as a two-bit shyster's unfounded defense.

The statement of Botha that there is not even a single political prisoner held in custody by the racists in South Africa is a whopping lie.

The Botha regime confined Nelson Mandela in a solitary cell and has all along persecuted him for 20-odd years for the mere reason that he opposed racism.

In South African prisons at the moment are a countless member of political prisoners detained by the Botha regime because they objected to racist crackdown and demanded vital rights and dignity.

Botha said black people kept behind the bars now were not political prisoners because they committed "criminal acts against security of the country."

This only made his true color all the clearer as the boss of racists engaged in racist crackdown.

Int'l Support for DPRK Unification Policy

General Secretary Zhao Ziyang of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Nov. 13 reaffirmed China's support for the DPRK proposals for the reunification of Korea in his talks with a delegation of the Japan Socialist Party headed by its chairwoman Doi Takako.

Declaring that China supports the relaxation of the situation on the Korean Peninsula, he said it approves all the proposals and measures accordant with the relaxation of tension and opposes any action aggravating the present situation on the Korean Peninsula.

At the talks Chairwoman Doi Takako said the JSP is interested in peace in Asia, the relaxation of tension on the Korean Peninsula, contacts and talks between the north and the south of Korea.

The JSP supports the proposal for large-scale arms reduction by the north and south, she declared.

On Nov. 10, Chairman of the Hungarian Council of Ministers Karoly Grosz said that the new disarmament step of the DPRK conforms to the interests of the Korean people and the world's peace-loving people, when he met An Min Su, DPRK ambassador to his country.

Meanwhile, statements supporting the Korean people's struggle for national reunification and the DPRK's proposal for arms reduction were made public by the Secretariat of the World Federation of Trade Unions and by the Organization of Solidarity of the Peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Kim Jong Il the People's Leader (9)

Among Steel Workers

(Continued from the No. 1,357 issue of The People's Korea)

In the higher middle school days the dear leader and other students frequently visited factories and enterprises.

In a single year of 1958, he visited the Pyongyang Rubber Factory, the Pyongyang Cornstarch Factory, the Pyongyang Textile Mill, the prefabricated construction site in East Pyongyang and many other factories and enterprises in Pyongyang and a number of production sites in far-off North Pyongan Province and Chagang Province and in North Hwanghae Province, where he worked together with workers and acquainted himself in detail with the country's industry, its technological equipment and their working and living conditions.

About the middle of October that year, he led an inspection team of students and visited the Hwanghae Iron Works, an outstanding base of iron in Korea.

The chimneys of blast and open-hearth furnaces standing out against the sky and the figures of energetic workers gave the students confidence in the might of Korea's heavy industry.

Entering the compound of the iron works Kim Jong Il said with great satisfaction that the powerful breath of the Korean working class could be felt there.

However, as he went round the shops according to the course of inspection, his face started gradually to become clouded. It was because the workers there were doing a very hard job in scorching heat.

After watching smelters at work in the blast furnace shop, he approached a young man, greeted him warmly and asked him to show him his gloves.

The smelter was embarrassed. The sooty gloves were not worthy to be shown.

Nevertheless, he pulled them on freely, making working movements and guessed for a while if they were not unhandy.

He felt with his fingers the heat-proof clothes of the young smelter. He asked in detail about the conditions of the hostel and his way of studying, as well as the number of those in the blast furnace shop taking the evening courses and special courses of the higher middle school and the metallurgical school and their school records.

He was very glad to know that they were all honour students and said warmly that the fatherly leader had said that the country would not be able to make rapid progress without carrying out the technical revolution, so the workers of the Hwanghae Iron Works should take the lead in acquiring skills and innovating technology and mechanize and automate difficult work so as to take off the heat-proof clothes before others.

The smelters were impressed by his simple character and kind words.

At that moment the bell for tapping rang in the smelting shop.

The smelters began pricking a tapping hole with iron bars. Each time they struck iron bars with hammers by turns, sparks flew in all directions from the tapping hole and sweat rolled down from their brows.

Seeing in silence the steel makers working with difficulty, Kim Jong Il asked a smelter beside him if the work could not be mechanized. After hesitating for a moment he answered that there was no particular method for mechanization.

Kim Jong Il kept watching the movements of smelters with a heavy heart.

Soon the tapping hole was opened, and molten iron glowing in the furnace gushed out into a strong fire stream.

The moment of delight when they witnessed the fruit of creative labour, the smelters seemed to have forgotten all toils they had endured by then, and went round quickly and put the channel in good shape so that the molten iron would flow well.

Although the smelters worked without taking breath, molten iron dashed along, sticking fast to the channel and overflowing its bank.

Seeing it, Kim Jong Il took a spade quickly and ran without hesitation to the channel. The smelters and a functionary of the iron works who was guiding him were all astounded.

It was because the temperature in the workplace when tapping was going on was usually 70-80 degrees and, moreover, there was no telling when an explosion would come through moisture if it existed somewhere in the molten iron channel.

They stood before him and earnestly requested him to refrain from doing that work because it was dangerous, though he might give a helping hand to all other jobs.

He smiled as if to set them at ease and told them that as the smelters fought the fire in front of furnaces not a day, but through life, in order to turn out molten iron, there was no reason why he couldn't do the same. He stood near the channel, not avoiding the boiling heat which was affecting his whole body.

The smelters, who were watching him help the tapping work, his clothes dripping with sweat, felt very grateful for his lofty character to share joys and sorrows with them, so that tears with perspiration streamed down from their eyes spontaneously.

After a short time he dropped in at the open-hearth furnace shop and peeped into the furnace for long through protection glasses.

Looking for a good while at the colour of boiling molten iron, he turned his face to the students and said:

"How profusely' our workers are sweating to turn out a ton of pig iron, a ton of steel! Hard manual labour, excessive heat and perspiration...should be decisively eliminated. This is a duty devolving upon us young people and students who are learning latest science and technology."

He emphasized that since the socialist reorganization of production relations had been completed and the economic foundations of the country laid down to a certain extent, the working conditions and methods should be improved so that the workers would be able to work more easily.

Not only the students but also the functionary of the iron works could not but feel thankful to him for his great concern for relieving the workers from arduous labour.

Feeling embarrassed to see Kim Jong Il worried about the works all the time, the guide then took him to the thin plate rolling shop at least with the idea of giving him satisfaction. The functionary had thought that it would be really worth seeing the rolling processes in which hot iron ingot was drawn out into a long bar like a stick of toffy or a broad plate.

The skilful movements of rolling workers who tonged with nippers the

(Continued on page 3)

Secretary Kim Jong Il and Economic Construction

Nature of Independent Economy

(Continued from the previous issue)

All techniques in a particular country need not necessarily be developed locally. Some of them could very well be imported. However, where this is the case, it is imperative that the imported technique be adapted to the specific conditions and circumstances obtaining in the importing country.

In developing an independent economy, the nation's cadres have an important role to play. In particular, they organize and direct the creative labor of the masses, they tap and utilize the natural resources of the country and they create and develop their own techniques. Without a strong team of its own cadres, no country can successfully build and maintain an independent and self-reliant economy.

Relying on the resources of one's own country and the strength of one's own people is also the way to build and develop the economy on the principle of self-reliance. This is also the way to build and develop it in accordance with the specific conditions of one's own country.

The conditions of resources are different from country to country. So the economy which develops on one's own resources reflects the specific conditions of one's own country.

Economy in the DPRK

The northern half of Korea has built a system of industrialized self-reliant economy in a period of about 14 years, and this is despite two devastating wars.

Obviously, this is not a people who allowed themselves the luxury of licking their wounds while awaiting the arrival of external assistance. Believing in themselves and determined to survive, they appear to have girded up their loins and confronted their problems head-on. The result is an impressive achievement that baffles most observers.

Today Korea has a diversified, self-reliant economy capable of continuous and extended production. It is an economy equipped with the latest technique developed by Koreans and it is based on the country's raw materials.

For instance, the lack of cotton in Korea did not send the people on a massive importation of fabrics. The scientists quickly found a way of turning limestone, which the country has in a fairly large quantity, into fabrics for their clothing needs.

It will be recalled that after the series of crises caused by serious declines in the productive capacity of many capitalist countries their annual average growth rate in the 1970s fell by 1.7 percent age points, from 5.2 percent in the 1960s to 3.5 percent in the 1970s.

In the Korean economy which was largely insulated from these crises because of its self-reliance, a high growth rate was recorded.

Its industry grew by 15.9 percent between 1970-79 on an annual average. Thus it surpassed by over 4.5 times the industrial growth rate of the developed capitalist countries.

This is also the case in the 1980s. The industrial growth rate of the developed capitalist countries declined by 1.2 percent age points in 1980 and 1.3 percent age points in 1981, whereas the Korean industry developed without letup, showing a 16.8 percent increase in 1982 as compared with the previous year.

It was between 1957 and 1970 that the DPRK achieved industrialization and established the system of an independent national economy. The 1970s also witnessed rapid growth in industry.

This is supported by the fact that the economy largely escaped a series of crises into which the world economy was thrown in that decade, especially after the October 1973 war in the Middle East.

The prime targets during the third Seven-Year Plan (1987-1993) which was decided at the Second Session of the Eighth DPRK Supreme People's Assembly held in Pyongyang in April this year are as follows: 100,000 million kWh of electricity, 120 million tons of coal, 10 million tons of steel, 1.7 million tons of non-ferrous metals, 22 million tons of cement, 7.2 million tons of chemical fertilizers, 11 million tons of sea foods, 1,500 million metres of fabrics and 15 million tons of grain.

They also plan to reclaim 300,000 hectares of tideland.

On a per capita basis, this translates to 5,534 kWh of electricity, 6,641 kilogrammes of coal, 830 kilogrammes of steel, 1,107 kilogrammes of cement, 83 metres of fabrics and 830 kilogrammes of grain a year.

The above-mentioned figures do creditably indicate the level of the development of the Korean industry. They also make it possible to project meaningfully into the future, and to see the DPRK in the near future effectively joining the ranks of countries called internationally developed ones.

–By Dr. M.O.C. Anikpo, Port Harcourt University in Nigeria–

(Concluded)

FM Kim Yong Nam Strongly Demands Implementation Of U.N. Resolution

Foreign Minister Kim Yong Nam sent a letter dated Nov. 11 to the secretary general of the United Nations, which declared that the division of the Korean Peninsula and its tensions should no longer be continued and the resolution of the 30th Session of the U.N. General Assembly for the promotion of Korea's reunification should be implemented at an early date.

Recalling that the Plenary Meeting of the 30th Session of the U.N. General Assembly Nov. 18, 1975, adopted a resolution on dissolving U.N. command in south Korea, withdrawing all foreign troops from there, replacing the armistice agreement with a peace agreement and removing the military confrontation between the north and the south to preserve a durable peace on the Korean Peninsula and accelerate the independent and peaceful reunification of the country, the letter notes that the U.S. and the south Korean authorities have not brought this just resolution into practice while resorting to division, confrontation and tensions.

The letter said:

The government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea put forward various reasonable proposals to relax tensions on the Korean Peninsula and promote the reunification in accordance with the just resolution adopted at the United Nations, and made all sincere efforts to realize them.

The DPRK government advanced a five-point proposal for massive arms reduction in July last.

The south Korean authorities' assertion of simultaneous entry of the north and the south into the U.N. in a state of division clearly shows their splittist nature. The north and south of Korea must not enter into the U.N. before their reunification but join it as one Korea after a unified federal government is formed.

The letter expressed expectation that the secretary general of the United Nations would work for the realization of the DPRK's reasonable proposals including the disarmament proposal and take proper measures for an early implementation of the just resolution of the U.N. General Assembly.

250,000 Discharged Soldiers Working Hard for Economic Construction

All citizens in the DPRK sincerely support the government's July 23 proposal for arms reduction and are making utmost efforts to realize it. The Korean People's Armymen who have left the front line and their guard post are advancing into all spheres of socialist construction according to the order of the Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army for a unilateral reduction of 100,000 army soldiers on July 23. Meanwhile, in September last year, some 150,000 soldiers of the KPA were dispatched to the peaceful construction of the country.

Here are collected news stories by a staff reporter of The People's Korea on how discharged soldiers are working in construction projects.

In the DPRK today, the fact that 100,000 soldiers have left the army and are engaged in new work, is on the lips of everyone. Discharged soldiers are moving into factories, enterprises and cooperative farms.

In last September, 250 discharged soldiers were assigned to the Pyongyang Spinning Machine Factory in Pyongyang City. The factory mainly produces textile machines and about 2,000 workers are employed there.

In the factory, the working place to produce machines to make rice-sacks (vinyl-made) was newly opened this autumn and the discharged men are working there.

Straw bags-making work was the work of farmers in winter until recently in Korea. The workplace has been established according to the directions of President Kim Il Sung so that farmers may be freed from this laborious work in winter.

Party's Important Decision

Mr. Paek Jun Ryong, 26, who was a soldier of the coast guards in South Hwanghae Province, said about his transfer from the frontline of national defense to rice-sack-making work:

"Indeed, I would like to fulfill my duty of national defense, but. ." he said and continued, "I understand the party's determination in order to prevent war and safeguard peace by all means. I am proud that I can engage in peaceful construction according to the party's important decision."

Mr. So Yong Il, 25, was a soldier in Kaesong City.

Asked about what was his main cencern, he answered, "I want to acquaint myself with technique as early as possible to overtake my senior workers."

Manager Li Yong Jae said that they were eager about their work and enjoyed a good reputation.

The factory takes a considerate attitude to them setting aside a day in a week for technical study.

They plan to produce 100 machines within this year and 400 machines per year from next year.

Study of Theory & Practice

In the leading Kumsong Tractor Factory (with about 10,000 employees) in the DPRK, 500 discharged soldiers were posted in mid-September.

The factory is one of the most spotlighted workplaces in the DPRK, and is now tackling the task of extensive industrialization of agriculture.

Automatization of the production processes is progressing and the technical levels of workers there are high.

Mr. Kim Ryong Gil (27 years) and Mr. Li Gwang Nam (26 years) who were soldiers of the Wonsan and Chongjin units are working at a screw-making shop.

The two men said, "We are busy studying both theory and practice because we are receiving three-month training."

Mr. Li said determinedly, "The order to discharge 100,000 soldiers is the first step to open a breakthrough for arms reduction. I would like to live up to the party's expectations with brilliant achievements in my new workplace in future."

As Many as 250,000 Soldiers Engaged in Peaceful Construction

The government of the DPRK will effect a unilateral reduction of 100,000 soldiers by the end of 1987. Last year, the DPRK took measures that 150,000 soldiers in active service should participate in economic construction. Therefore, as many as 250,000 soldiers are to engage in peaceful construction in total.

According to the measures, tens of thousands of soldiers are working in all places, including the construction work on Kwangbok Street in Pyongyang which is now under construction for the cohosting of the 24th Olympic Games and the 1989 International Youth and Students' Festival.

TV, radio and newspapers are reporting on their activities every day.

Large-Scale Capital Construction Full of Vigor

Capital construction is in progress on a large scale in Korea in the first year of the third Seven-Year Plan.

Major objects such as the Sunchon Vinalon Complex, Kwangbok Street, power stations, coal mines and reclaimed tideland are being built or expanded at a rapid pace. New large-scale projects have been commenced and accelerated in full swing.

President Kim Il Sung worked out the grand blueprint of the new long-term plan, selected major construction objects to carry it into effect, and took revolutionary measures including dispatch of 150,000 People's Army soldiers for the construction purpose.

Secretary Kim Jong Il mobilized the whole party, the whole nation and the entire people for the construction of major objects, and has directed the grand construction campaign in the van with an extraordinary wisdom and a tested leadership. As a result, great achievements have been registered in different parts of the DPRK.

This year some 30 objects have been completed, including the first generators of the Taechon Power Stations, the Wiwon Power Station and the Sunchon Thermal Power Plant, the Songwon Dam and the 48 km water-tunnel, the Soho Coal Mine, the stainless steel pipe shop of the Chollima Steel Complex, the Songchon Barrage and the Anju Orlon Spinning Mill.

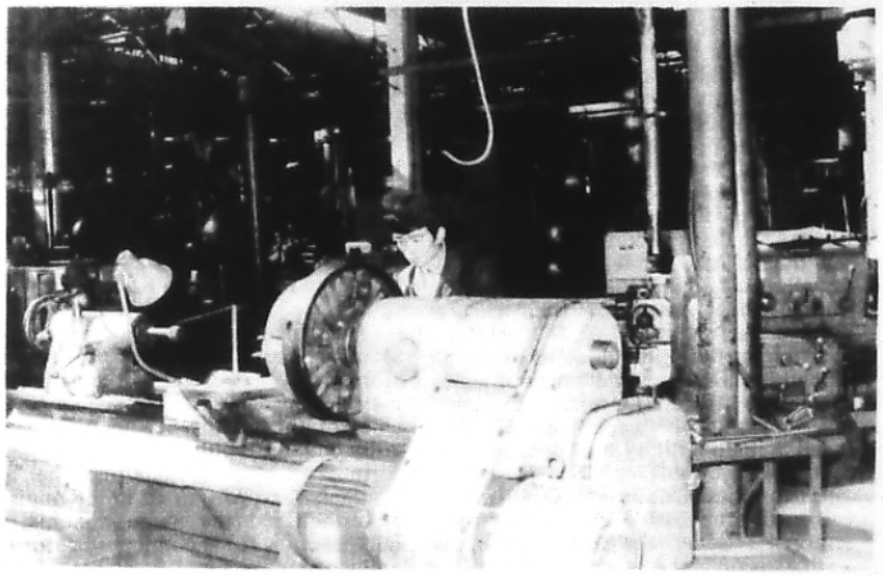
New modern streets including An Sang Taek Street and villages have been built in large numbers. The builders are expanding their successes.

The builders of power bases push ahead with the construction of different large-scale power stations simultaneously and effect innovation in the structure projects of power stations and assembling of generating equipment.

Large coal mines and pits are being developed or expanded on a large scale in the coal fields such as the Anju, Sunchon, Tokchon, Kangdong and northern areas.

The builders of the Sunchon Vinalon Complex carried out more than 70 percent of the first-stage construction of vast scale in the construction and assembling value. Some production processes including the carbide production system have entered the stage of trial operation.

At construction sites in Pyongyang including Kwangbok Street, dwelling houses, public buildings and facilities over a total floor space of some 2,400,000 square meters have been assembled in the last year.



Mr. So Yong Il, a discharged soldier, works at the Pyongyang Spinning Machine Factory.

Construction of Pyongyang Int'l Airport Progressing Apace

The construction site of the Pyongyang International Airport

The construction of the Pyongyang International Airport is progressing at a rapid speed.

As The People's Korea reported in its Nov. 14 issue, Secretary Kim Jong Il gave guidance at the newly-building Pyongyang International Airport.

Builders are set on completing the construction work as early as possible according to his guidance. Many soldiers are engaged in the airport construction work, too.

The airport will have very long runways and lead-in strips for the take-off and landing of any extra-large planes.

The airport will be equipped with ultra-modern automated facilities.

The builders including soldiers have excavated 746,000 cubic meters of earth and tamped 124,000 cubic meters of concrete in a short period to complete concrete tamping for the foundations of the runways.

They are now fulfilling their daily quotas 200 percent in the earth-moving work for the main lead-in strips, following the completion of concrete tamping for the runways.

(Continued from page 2)

thin plate material coming spirally out of the roller and brought it to fix in the next machine were marvellous and this had been very much to the credit of the iron works.

Upon entering the rolling shop, the students shouted, with admiration, the moment they first saw the rolling workers' nimble movements.

However, Kim Jong Il watched carefully the rolling processes with his meditative look.

The guiding functionary of the iron works understood what was in his mind and said that the work of the rolling workers was not so laborious because in practice they did it only for about 10 to 15 minutes and took a rest of 30 minutes.

He said to the functionary that even though they would rest for long, hard labour would remain as it was and that the question was to relieve them from arduous work once and for all.

He slowly went up to the thin plate leveler.

At that moment a worker passed by him, dragging a rolled thin plate.

After watching for a long while the worker dragging a thin plate with difficulty, he told the accompanying functionary that such work could be mechanized through a slight effort.

When the functionary was hesitant, Kim Jong Il took hold of an iron rod and began to make a drawing on the ground.

The functionary who had taken a look at it soon realized that it was a sketch of some machine, and could not repress admiration for his bright idea which he had conceived in a few minutes to mechanize a process of work.

After completing the drawing he explained it to the students and the works' functionary:

"If a chain conveyor or the like is utilized in this way, people will not need to drag thin plates with difficulty. How hard it would be to work in such a way all through eight hours....

"As the Marshal said, the workers should be relieved from painstaking labour."

These were words of aspiration to free the workers for ever from back-breaking labour and from work under harmful conditions or in excessive heat.

(To be continued)

Roh Can't Unveil His True Colors

—A Ringleader of Kwangju Massacre & Fascist Suppression—

Roh Tae Woo, a presidential candidate of the ruling Democratic Justice Party, has been reported recently as being a "hero" who saved the nation with the announcement of the June 29 "declaration for democratization."

Some of the home and foreign media even said that Roh is "full of wit, moderate and soft" after his visit to Washington and Tokyo.

However, south Korean people are well aware of the fact that he is a person who has the opposite qualities to those that reporters have been attributing him with.

This was demonstrated when his effigy was burnt along with Ronald Reagan's and Chun Doo Hwan's at anti-government rallies.

In May 1980 hundreds of thousands of the Kwangju citizens rose up to save Kim Dae Jung, the native son, as he had been arrested by the Chun Doo Hwan-led martial law command. In the merciless and barbarous crackdown upon the Kwangju Popular Uprising some 2,000 people were said to have been massacred by the special combat troops. Roh Tae Woo is widely regarded as a ringleader of the Kwangju massacre because he played a major role in the "operation" against the Kwangju citizens.

Who's Roh Tae Woo

Roh graduated from the eleventh class of the south Korean military academy, the same class as Chun Doo Hwan.

He belonged to a military group called "leading reform force" which stood at the forefront of disentangling the chaos which was created after the assassination of the late president Park Chung Hee in 1979.

Roh is widely known as one of the core elements in the Dec. 12 coup which played a decisive role in giving birth to the present Chun regime, Dong-A Ilbo said on Sep. 21.

In Dec. 12, 1979, the then security commander of the south Korean army Chun Doo Hwan attempted a coup to get the military under his control by dispelling the old generals including Chung Sung Hwa, the then general chief of staff.

Chun carried out the coup by mobilizing his classmates and heads of major divisions who were juniors at the academy to strike the capital guard command, a main military unit of the Chung Sung Hwa faction.

The military units mobilized in the coup were the 20th division, the second armored brigade, the 26th division, the 15th division and 61st training unit.

However, the ninth division called the "strongest front unit" which was led by Roh Tae Woo is said to have played a decisive role in the coup in 1979.

Roh was appointed as the commander of the capital guard unit soon after the success of the coup.

He is also said to have executed the May 17 coup in 1980 and the Kwangju massacre by himself with close consultation with Chun Doo Hwan.

Establishment of Anti-Communist Investigation Rooms

The investigation rooms of the security command, dubbed the "ice store house", was set up and directly managed by Roh Tae Woo when he was chief of the intelligence section of the army counter-espionage unit.

In 1982 no sooner than he had assumed the position of home minister he established the anti-communist affairs section to conduct the torture upon students and dissidents and to fake "pro-communist, left-leaning spy" cases.

This torture room is well known because Park Chung Chol, a Seoul National University student, was tortured to death on Jan. 14 this year and merciless torture was inflicted upon Kim Kun Tae, the former chairman of the Federation of Democratic Youths in it last year, both of them were very well publicized in south Korea.

It is said that three of the two sections were set up at Roh's suggestion out of the ill-famed Namsan room of the NSP (the Board for National Security Planning), the investigation room of Namyongdong of Security Bureau and that of the security command.

In February 1982 when he was elected as the chief representatives of the ruling DJP, he brought forward the amended party regulation draft which noted that the expected presidential candidate must possess an official party position and be elected at the party conversion before the presidential term expires from a year to 90 days at latest.

This amendment of the party rule was seen as a bid for his presidency.

The split in the opposition party is also seen as being engineered by Roh as the division of the New Korea Democratic Party brought widespread suspicion about intimidation of the ruling party and the United States.

"If he succeeded in splitting the then No. 1 opposition party he promised those concerned that he would pay 3 billion won to Lee Min Woo. 1 billion won to a fixer who conducted the split engineering behind the stage, and 3 billion to those who helped the maneuver," a south Korean dissident paper Minjung Shinmun said on Feb. 27.

In 1979 when he assumed command of the ninth division stationed on the front line, he was reported to have told, "Without a northward advance (invasion) the reunification and peace of our country is inconceivable. We should not regard the 'defence of free world' as simply defending south Korea from 'threat of southward invasion.' We have to be determined to even advance toward Pyongyang, Manchuria and Primorskii Krai with the close cooperation of the U.S. army."

Chun Prepared to Flee To Australia

A rumor has it that Chun Doo Hwan may flee to Australia in case of "emergency", according to the Korea Report of August issue.

The special bulletin on Korean affairs published in Japan quoted information from Australia as saying that U.S. assistant secretary of state Gaston Sigur visited the country to discuss with prime minister Hawke "Chun's asylum in Australia" right before his trip to south Korea when the June popular uprising reached the zenith.

The Korea Report said Chun Doo Hwan has already secured immovables in Perth in Western Australia. For instance, his clan bought stocks of the Swan Company, a large beer enterprise, for 11.2 million dollars and purchased the White Rock Hotel.

Chun was reported to have bought immovables in Australia through his agent, Aran Bond, who is closely linked with his sister-in-law's husband Kim Sang Gu, former south Korean ambassador to Canberra, it added.

It pointed out that Chun's son, Jae Gok, is on close terms with Aran Bond and is involved in the unidentified foreign debt of 1,200 million dollars and that Chun's younger brother, Chun Gyong Hwan, has frequently visited Australia recently, implying that they are all connected with preparations for Chun's asylum in the country.

Seoul's Poor Shoved Aside For Olympics

Follow excerpts from an article of The Guardian which appeared in The Daily Yomiuri on Nov. 19.

At five one September Sunday morning, families in the Seoul slum city of Chang Shin Dong were awaken by the crash of tear gas canisters being fired into their homes. Mothers and children fled in terror.

They ran out of their homes straight into the arms of 200 hired strongmen, protected by a ring of 500 police. Many were badly beaten. Forty homes were destroyed in a concerted sledge-hammer operation.

The victims were carefully chosen from among those of the slum's 600 families known to have voiced the greatest opposition to the city's plans to raze the slums in a huge "beautification" program.

Their men had been deliberately stopped from returning home.

This day's operation was typical of the brutality with which Seoul, with an eye on next year's Olympics here, is stepping up its huge redevelopment scheme to push its 3.5 million slum dwellers out of sight. This, in the year designated by the United Nations as International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

One mother, Cho Kum Sang, said: "I was sleeping and my small children were beside me. My husband was not there because of threats he had received. Suddenly a tear gas cylinder was fired into the room. But, of course, I didn't know what it was at first.

"When I got the children out, it was total panic. It was pouring with rain and all we could see was police.

"In the morning, everything was ruined. Our home was destroyed by men using sledgehammers. One of our friends injured his spine when he was beaten up. Yet all we wanted to do was stay where we were. We weren't bothering anyone."

Officially, of course, the incident did not happen. No mention of it has appeared in the state-controlled media. The result of the redevelopment program is that the sturdy, but often overcroweded slums, nearly all of which have water and electricity, are being razed en masse to make way for the capital's rapidly growing middle calsses. The extraordinary growth of the city over the last 10 years—Seoul now has more than 10 million people—has also sent property prices soaring.

Everyone in the city seems to know that someone somewhere is making a lot of money, but they are difficult to track down. Rumors abound that President Chun Doo Hwan's family may be centrally involved in profits being made, and some claim that their wealth would make ex-President Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines look like a pauper.

What is known, however, is that large amounts of money have been paid by some companies into the Olympics fund in return for land deal favors.

Critics of the "beautification" program, many of whom work within the Protestant and Catholic churches, also point accusing fingers at government officials and police, who have clearly been working hand-in-glove with construction firms over recent months in an attempt to "move the people on."

In Chang Shin Dong, the 600 families had resolutely refused to budge, despite threats, bribes and other forms of intimidation, such as cutting off water and electricity supplies. Many know they were not illegally occupying the land their houses were built on and say they could see no justifiable reason why they should move.

Alternative accommodation offered by the government was either too expensive or too far out of the city and from their places of work.

The brutality being used by city authorities has rapidly led to a loss of faith by the slum people in the authorities in general. Before, their Confucian tradition had bred an attitude of acceptance. Now they look to the rapidly growing Christian churches to protect them.

The churches have encouraged community organizations and helped them fight eviction orders. Inevitably, this has led increasingly to direct confrontation with the state.

It has now become clear that many people have had more than enough of a government which has based its power on a system of injustice, brutality, repression and spying. They are no longer convinced that it matters that saying anything against the government brands them as North Korean spies. But they do believe that the United Nations declaration entitling everyone to a roof over their heads should apply to them, too.

NCDC to Set Up Civilian Supervision Device for Elections

The National Coalition for Democracy, formerly the National Coalition for Democratic Constitution (NCDC), held on Nov. 5 a general assembly of its national representatives to decide to maintain a fair position in the coming elections, to launch a struggle for supervising election fraud and to demand withdrawal of opposition politicians from the organization for this purpose.

The NCD has formed its chapters in 74 cities and counties with 11 provincial headquarters across south Korea as of Oct. 5.

Meanwhile, religious circles including Protestants, the south Korean Federation of Women's Organizations, the Federation of Women Voters and the YMCA expressed their determination to join in the election supervision movement and initiated concrete measures.

They mainly laid emphasis on mobilizing public opinion for election supervision, the establishment of an indictment center against fraud, and the dispatch of a supervision group to the polls and ballot-counting offices across south Korea.

Seoul YMCA which has a 15,000 membership held a meeting on Nov. 5 to demand fair elections for a democratic society and asserted that the establishment of a civilian government elected by the people and through clean and fair elections only can put an end to social unrest caused by public doubt about the legitimacy of power.

The Federation of Women's Organizations held a rally for women voters to appeal to women to actively join in politics and activities to supervise election fraud prevention and made plans to manage an indictment center for illegal election activities.

Meanwhile, the south Korean National Christian Council (KNCC) made public on Nov. 4 a statement on the present situation in which it said, "The coming elections should be the ones which all the nation could accept," and demanded an end to terrorism against presidential candidates and illegal election campaigns ridden by "money and abuses of power" being carried out by the ruling party.

As for the Catholics, they formed an indictment center to supervise the prevention of illegal election campaigns at the Catholic hall in the Myongdong Cathedral in Seoul and announced their determination to powerfully push forward campaigns for forming public opinion by way of indictment, appeal, the relevation of bribes, interference by the government authorities, slander, humiliation of personalities, promotion of local antagonism and other electoral fraud.

The Catholic Joint Committee for Democracy, which was set up on Oct. 29, is planning not only to conduct the supervision of election campaigns but also to formulate a civilian supervision device such as the NAMFUREL of the Philippines with the cooperation of other churches and dissident groups in the polling and ballot-counting process.

People Demand Single Opposition Candidate

A group of south Korean Catholic farmers shaved on Nov. 6 their hair before starting an indefinite hunger strike demanding that two opposition leaders, Kim Young Sam and Kim Dae Jung, agree on a single candidacy for December's presidential election.

The protesters maintained that a single opposition candidate was essential if the fascist military rule was to be stopped.

Cardinal Stephen Kim Sou Hwan, the Roman Catholic premate of south Korea, on Nov. 11 demanded, "I wish the two Kims would agree on a single candidacy and make every effort to bring about the democratization of society.

"If they failed to field a single candidate, it would not help end the military rule but will strengthen its position," he said.

S. Korean People's Voice Against War and Nukes (2)

(Continued from the previous issue)

The fact that there is no peace movement and that a peace movement is regarded as a taboo in our country, is due probably to the fact that the south Korean people labor under the illusion about and false trust to the logics of security and the ideology of military balance and fail to question these ideological assumptions. Actually, we have had no peace research institute to study these questions nor have there been any organizations to promote peaceful education to inculcate the ideas about the real values of peace and human existence in the minds of people. Naturally, our people have the right to know and discuss, from the standpoint of their existence, how many nuclear weapons are stored in our country and what threat they pose to the existence of our nation. ...

Students of the questions of peace say unanimously that a war does not break out accidentally and that war preparations precede a war. It is also said that war preparations are made not only militarily and strategically, but also politically, economically and socio-psychologically. When a war has broken out, there is no preventing it.

War must be prevented in the stage of preparations. Particularly, today when the armed forces are equipped with ultra-modern science and technology, weapons and equipment, and when computer systems are fully utilized in war, it is practically impossible to arrest or prevent it, once a war should break out. It is because of this that Mills said that the cause of a third world war and a nuclear war is in its preparations. If we should fail to prevent war preparations themselves, it would be impossible to prevent a war. ...

It is essential for us today to discuss the question of peace and start a peace movement in order to save the nation and the state which are heading for the crisis of their existence along the path to destruction. It is vital to make serious efforts to promote studies on peace and education in order to study and inform the public of this broad-ranging questions of utmost importance. Before the International Year of Peace is over, we should seriously consider, though belatedly, the question of peace.

2. The Situation in Northeast Asia and the Nuclear Crisis of the Korean Peninsula

The following are excerpts from Chapter 3 "The Situation in Northeast Asia and the Nuclear Crisis of the Korean Peninsula", in Part II "Nuclear Weapons and the Crisis of the Korean Peninsula" in a collection of articles "Recognition and Practice I" (3 volumes, published in April 1985) which was prepared by south Korean university students as a material for a "symposium of university students:"

Chapter 3 The Situation in Northeast Asia and the Nuclear Crisis of the Korean Peninsula

1. Military strength of south and north Korea

2. Northeast Asian policies and strategies of the United States and the Soviet Union

(1) Changes in the situation surrounding the Korean Peninsula

(omitted)

(2) Policies and strategies of the United States and the Soviet Union

1) U.S. policy on the Korean Peninsula (omitted)

2) Soviet policy on the Korean Peninsula (omitted)

3) Southeast Asian policies of the United States and the Soviet Union and the nuclear war theater

... On Jan. 16, 1983, the Reagan Administration's military concept in its "Defense Guideline – Plan for Fiscal Years 1984–1988" was exposed by mass communication media. The main contents of the guideline were as follows.

1. To develop a new system of weapons for use in the atmosphere and outer space and to ensure a superior position in the new war theater of outer space. For this purpose, for the United States to refuse any proposals or treaties which are intended to restrict the development of space weapons.

2. To consider the revision of the regulations of the SALT agreement.

3. Not to limit nuclear confrontation to the sea area but to expand it, in case of nuclear confrontation on the sea.

4. It is expected that the Soviet Union will be thrown into serious (economic) confusion in the mid-1980s. For the United States to take advantage of this situation and to promote an arms buildup program such as would overwhelm the weapons system of the Soviet Union.

5. To weaken the economic and military base of the Soviet Union through an unlimited arms race and foment social unrest there, and to force the Soviet Union to capitulate before the United States under conditions favorable to the United States.

6. To structure a capability to use medium-range nuclear missiles for preemptive attacks, and to continue both conventional and nuclear warfare on some fronts simultaneously.

This strategy is known as the strategy of simultaneous wars. What is remarkable about this strategy is the fact that pre-emptive attacks by nuclear weapons are conceived in this strategy.

According to this strategy of simultaneous wars, the United States not only will launch a counterattack in some specified area but also will stage retaliatory attacks in some other areas simultaneously. This strategy is conceived as one against the Soviet Far East and the Mid-Eastern region. Under this concept, Japan will agree to permit the United States to utilize its military bases in it, block the Sea of Okhotsk and the Straits of Tsushima. At the same time, the combined armed forces of the United States and Japan are to carry out this strategy against the Soviet fleet in the Sea of Japan and the Pacific and against the Soviet armed forces in the Maritime Province (Primorskii Krai) of the Soviet Union.

This U.S. strategy for Northeast Asia consists of the following three elements.

First, to perpetuate the division of Korea, and utilize the Korean Peninsula as a forward base of the United States against the Soviet Union and to remilitarize Japan so as to utilize it as a rear support base.

Second, to structure a regional security organization in Northeast Asia like the NATO in Europe, and to increase the role of the Self-Defense Forces of Japan so as to enable them to protect the countries of the Pacific Basin such as the Philippines, south Korea, Taiwan and other countries as materials supplying bases.

Third, while placing emphasis on the Middle East and the Persian Gulf, Reagan's global strategy is also based on turning Japan into a strategic base in Asia.

At the annual U.S.-South Korea security conference held in Washington in April 1983, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger described south Korea as an area of vital importance which should be defended even at the risk of a nuclear war. ...

Weinberger stated to the effect that south Korea was extremely important to the United States and the Free World, strategically as well as geopolitically, and the United States regarded it as an area of vital importance for the defense of the United States itself.

(To be continued)

1st Pyongyang-Moscow-Berlin Flight Leaves DPRK

The first passenger plane "IL-62" of the DPRK Civil Aviation Administration left Pyongyang at nine of the Nov. 12 morning for Pyongyang-Moscow-Berlin airline which has been opened in accordance with the agreement between the DPRK Civil Aviation Administration, the GDR General Bureau of Civil Aviation and the Civil Aviation Ministry of the Soviet Union.

Leaving by this plane was a delegation of the DPRK Civil Aviation Administration headed by its Director Kim Yo Ung to attend functions to be held in the GDR in connection with the opening and operation of the airline.

The first plane was sent off at the airport by personages concerned of the DPRK, Charge d'Affaires ad Interim of the GDR embassy in Pyongyang Joachim Elsner and Soviet civil aviation representative in Pyongyang V.V. Timoshenko.

New Road Built for Excursion To Mt. Paekdu

Mt. Paekdu seen from Lake Samji.

A nearly 30 km road for excursion between Mt. Paekdu Secret Camp and Mt. Paekdu has been newly built.

Mt. Paekdu Secret Camp was set up during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle and is preserved as revolutionary historical site.

This district is associated with the revolutionary feats performed by President Kim Il Sung in the period of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

The new road for excursion which stretches across the Paekdu forest is constructed well harmonizing with the characters of the Alpine region and the primitive forest, linked with many curves, gradients and dozens of bridges crossing large and small ravines.

With the construction of this road, an over 120 km ring-shaped road for excursion has been formed in Mt. Paekdu area.

The newly built road for excursion will better serve the convenience of the excursionists to the revolutionary battle site in Mt. Paekdu.

Along this road they will see peculiar natural sceneries such as falls in Mt. Paekdu which were newly discovered, grasslands of the alpine region, primitive forest covered with thick moss, wonderful ravines resembling Mt. Kumgang and snow banks even in summer.

DPRK's Heavy & Light Industry Products Win Prizes at Int'l Fairs

Korean wings won five trophy cups at the Leipzig, Poznan and other well-known international fairs this year.

This brought the number of special trophy cups to 6 and that of medals to 227 including 84 gold won in recent years at the socialist and Third World fairs and capitalist trade fairs.

The special trophy cups were awarded to the Korean wings at the Zagreb International Fair and Third World fairs in recognition of their general merits.

Many gold medals were awarded to heavy industrial products including machine tools.

The machine tools "Kusong No. 3" and "Unsan Tool" won the gold three times respectively at Bulgarian, Malaysian and other international fairs, the lathe "S1-250" took the gold at the Zagreb International Fair, the rice-transplanting machine at the Malaysian International Fair and the ultra-high-voltage press "Kumgang 2500-A" at the Leipzig International Fair.

Sunchon cement and magnesia clinker were crowned with gold medals at the Plovdiv International Fair held in Bulgaria.

A trophy cup was awarded to the Korean wing at the International Trade Exhibition held in Ndola, Zambia, early in July.

Not only heavy industrial manufactures but also products of light industry, foodstuff and handicraft won worldwide popularity.

Ten gold medals were awarded to goods made of *Insam* (ginseng) including *Koryo Insam*, *Insamsul* (ginseng liquor) and *Insamcha* (ginseng tea).

Korean velvet for spring wear and *Tasaekdan* silk won the gold twice on end at the Leipzig and Zagreb international fairs.

Popular at international fairs are also embroidered goods, works of applied art, glassware, grass crafts and ceramics, which annually won many gold medals.

Today Korea, with her mighty heavy and light industrial bases, is successfully producing nearly all things she needs by herself, including latest types of machinery, to say nothing of light industrial goods.

Japanese Citizens in Nara Contribute to DPRK-Japan Solidarity

Mr. Fujiwara of the Nara Committee of Japan-DPRK Solidarity (left of the front row, at the Pyongyang Students and Children's Palace, 1980)

Introduced here are activities of Japanese citizens' groups in Nara Prefecture, which has close historical ties with Korea.

These groups have contributed toward deepening the understanding of Japanese people on Korea, and campaigned for the promotion of Korea's reunification.

Nara Com. of Japan-DPRK Solidarity

The Nara Committee of Japan-DPRK Solidarity has been conducting a signature collection campaign to support Pyongyang's July 23 disarmament proposal and south Korea's democratization movement, demand a fundamental change in Japanese government's hostile policy toward the DPRK and contribute to the realization of nuclear-free Asia and Pacific.

The Nara committee was organized in April 1977 by broad sections of citizens. They include Kitayama Yasuo, professor emeritus at Osaka University of Education and president of the committee, and 20 other representative members, priests, lawyers, teachers, workers, etc.

Fujiwara Yoshio, 55, member of the Nara Municipal Assembly, serves as its general secretary.

Since its organization, the committee has continued campaigns demanding among others guarantee of the rights of Korean residents in Japan and a fundamental change in the Alien Registration Law.

It has been an important task of the committee since its start to lead citizens to understand the relations between Japan and Korea and the present situation in the Korean Peninsula and the DPRK.

It was the visit of Mr. Fujiwara and others to the DPRK that had an impact upon activities of the committee.

"When we visited the Korean Historical Museum, we heard about the historical relations between Korea and Japan. Then we realized that if we explained on the historical relations between Nara Prefecture and Korea, it might interest citizens," Mr. Fujiwara said and continued:

"After our visit to the DPRK, we started discussing the historical Japan-Korea relations at gatherings of citizens and study meetings.

"For instance, we began to study etymology of 'Nara' in 'Nara Prefecture' and told people that the word 'Nara' means 'country' in Korean.

"We picked up issues such as Japan's 36-year-long colonial rule of Korea and the present division of Korea into two parts by the U.S.

"Changes began to appear in the attitude of citizens to us. In the future, the committee plans to expand itself by leading more citizens to join the committee and campaign for solidarity between Korea and Japan," he said.

Korean Affairs Study Com. in Yamatotakada City

It was Nov. 20 last year that a Korean Affairs Study Committee was organized in Yamatotakada City, Nara Prefecture.

The committee include housewives, workers and citizens in various walks of life in the city.

Mr. Hayami Zenzaburo, member of the Yamatotakada Municipal Assembly, visited the DPRK in July last year as a member of the first DPRK-visiting group of Japan Socialist Party municipal members.

After his visit to Korea, he knew many people wished to visit the DPRK. Then he thought it would be much better for them to visit Korea after studying things Korea.

Then he played a leading role in organizing the Korean Affairs Study Committee of Yamatotakada City for its citizens.

The committee holds a meeting every month even if attendants are only three or five.

Topics discussed at the meeting are those familiar to the attendants. The committee invites specialists according to different subjects by contacting Chongryun's (the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan) Nara Prefectural Headquarters and Korean residents in the city.

At the first meeting the theme of education in the DPRK was discussed and the second meeting, a history of Japan-Korea relations.

Lecturers are teachers of Choson University and officials of Chongryun Nara Prefectural Headquarters.

As for historical relations between Nara Prefecture and Korea, the committee puts emphasis on the study of Japan-Korea relationships.

Three members of the committee visited the DPRK by Friendship Ship organized by the Japan Socialist Party in July this year.

Mr. Hayami published a booklet on his visit to Korea.

The committee plans to organize a visiting group to the DPRK.

Art Exhibition for Korean Students in Japan Held

The 16th Art Exhibition for Korean Students in Japan was held at the Tokyo Korean Cultural Hall in Tokyo from Oct. 17 to 19. It is one of the largest annual events for Korean students in Japan.

This year 5,325 works qualified from the 8,069 that were submitted for the exhibition. After the judging 674 works were admitted to the exhibition and prizes were awarded to 125 works.

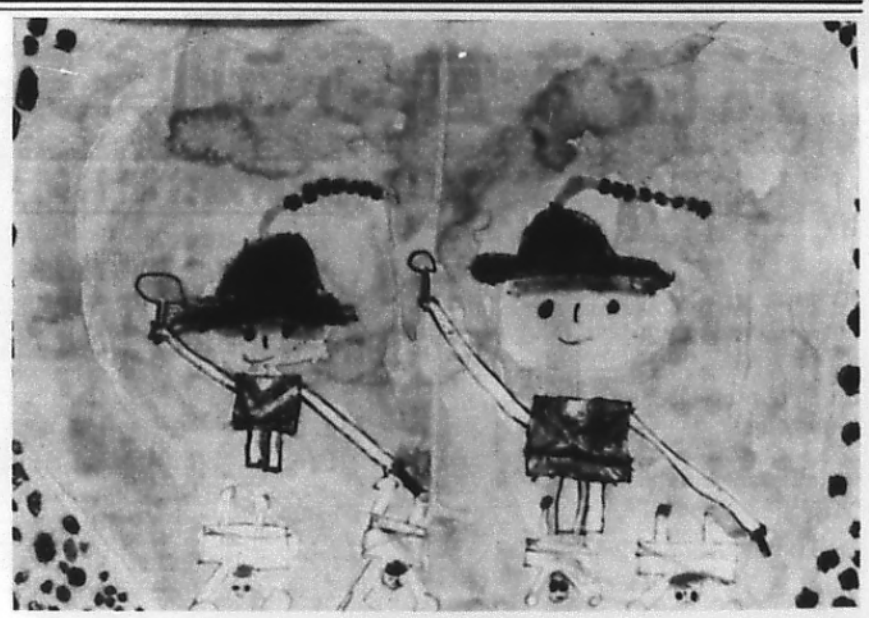
As a result of the systematic democratic national education provided for the children of Korean residents in Japan promoted by Chongryun (the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan), Korean pupils and students are realizing their talents in various fields such as sports and art at 152 Korean schools from kindergarten to university which are located in almost every part of Japan.

They not only study Korean, their mother tongue, and other subjects but also attend many club activities including soccer, volleyball, boxing, tennis, brass band and so on, and have earned a reputation here in Japan.

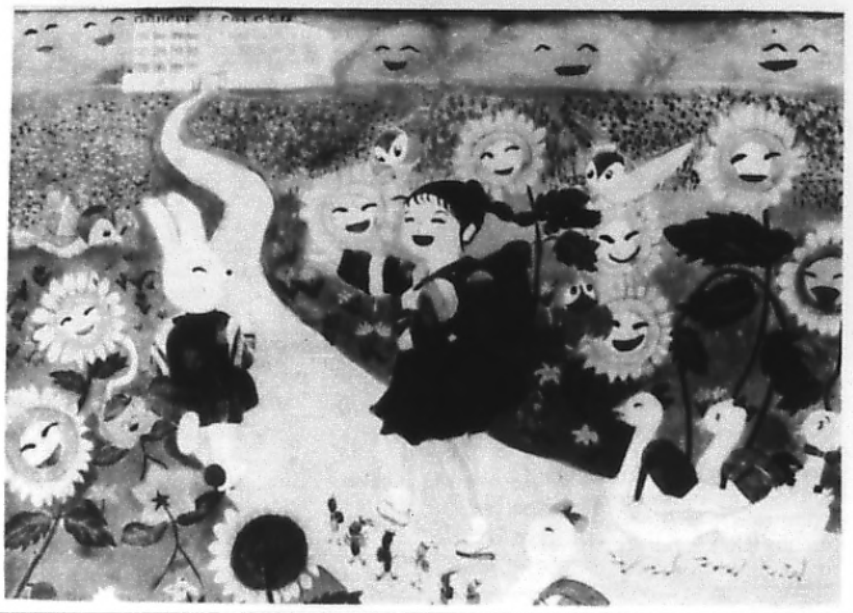
Present at the exhibition were Chairman Han Duk Su, First Vice Chairman Li Jin Gyu and other vice chairmen of the Chongryun Central Standing Committee and officials concerned.

Meanwhile, a Korean student's paintings, two oil paintings, were accepted for the 83rd Pacific Kansai Art Exhibition which was held recently. The exhibition has the longest history among exhibitions for public contribution in Japan and it was the first time that a student's work was, regardless of whether he is Korean or Japanese, elected for the exhibition.

The artist, Han Jin Won, who is a third year student of the Kobe Korean High School, said "It is unbelievable that my works were elected for the exhibition. I will draw more pictures which deeply impress people."



"Peasant Dances" by Chang Yang Jun, kindergarten pupil at the kindergarten attached to the Tokyo Korean 1st Primary and Junior High School.



"Let's Go to the Korean School" by Li Myong Hwa, six grader of the Tokyo Korean 4th Primary and Junior High School. ▶

▼ "Still Lifes" by Ryang Tae Ja, third year student of the Osaka Korean High School.

Korean compatriots standing in front of works at the exhibition.

Korean Martial Artist Wins Int'l Championship

Mun Jang Gyu, champion of the 4th World Open Karate Tournament in 1987, is a second generation Korean in Japan.

A Korean Karate exponent in Japan became the world's leading contender by winning the championship at the 4th World Open Karate Tournament held in Tokyo from Nov. 6 to 8.

At the tournament, which is one of the largest of its kind in the world, more than 200 participants from 78 countries around the world vied with each other for the championship.

The champion, Mun Jang Gyu, 24, came third at the last tournament and won prizes several times at Karate championships in Japan including the All Japan Karate Championships in 1985 and 1987.

He took up Karate when he was a first year student at a junior high school and now usually practices for four or five hours a day, training and teaching at a gym.

The champion said "It had been my greatest dream to win the championship at the tournament. Now that the dream has come true, I will live up to the championship hereafter."

He attended the tournament by the name of Matsui Akiyoshi, his Japanese name. He used his Japanese name when he took up Karate at a gym, and this time he was not permitted to attend the tournament under the name of Mun Jang Gyu, his Korean name.

U.S. Figures Urge Washington's Policy Change On Korea

In the past year or so, voices calling on the U.S. government to adjust its policies toward the Korean Peninsula to the changing realities began to be heard not only from moderate Americans but from prominent conservatives.

Here are some of their suggestions and assessment of key issues involving the Korean Peninsula:

On U.S. Military Presence and Nuclear Weapons

"No matter how many arguments are made in favor of maintaining troops, the essential truths which led the Carter Administration to advocate a troop withdrawal in 1977 still exist today. Large numbers of U.S. ground troops are not militarily necessary, given the basic equivalence of ROK and DPRK forces, and the withdrawal of U.S. troops is not likely to lead to increased aggression by the North."

"In fact, because of the extreme hostility of the DPRK to the presence of U.S. forces, a U.S. withdrawal would more likely result in reduced North-South tensions and improved relations. The risk of war would be slightly greater, but the chances for conclusion of a meaningful peace treaty would be enhanced immeasurably.

"In all probability, a withdrawal would also lead to improved U.S. relations with the Korean people. For years the U.S. troop presence has served to bolster the power of a series of repressive military dictatorships in south Korea. A withdrawal, if carefully and skillfully executed, could increase the possibility of the establishment of a true democracy in south Korea. There is very real danger, however, that a withdrawal improperly executed could lead to greater repression by military leaders, increased militarization, and dominance by the military in south Korea." – ***Stephen Goose, senior analyst with the Center for Defense Information, in his article contained in the book "Two Koreas–One Future?" published by the American Friends Service Committee*** –

"South Korea's military governments have never permitted free discussion in the country's media of the nuclear issue. The U.S. has relied on this imposed media silence for its increasingly untenable refusal to admit to nuclear weapons in south Korea, referred to in numerous declassified documents. Soon the silence must be lifted.

"Despite assertions to the contrary, the south Korean-US military relationship remains an unequal one. Command of south Korean forces, of the Panmunjom negotiations and of the nuclear presence will become targets for attack in the near future as the local media in unfettered.

"Compromise must be planned now. Land-based nuclear weapons must be gradually withdrawn. The Panmunjom contact must be professionalized and backed up with adequate civilian Washington-Pyongyang channels. The way towards a peace treaty must be prepared, with south Korea first becoming a new armistice signatory.

"Finally, the US military presence should be shifted from the riflemen of the US Army's 2nd Division – unneeded in a manpower-rich south Korea – by reducing the division by two-thirds to a brigade. Concentration should then be placed on air and technical support, well back from the provocative armistice line." – ***Gregory Henderson, a research associate with the Center for East Asian Studies at Harvard University, in his article contributed to Far Eastern Economic Review, Sep. 24, 1987*** –

"Removing nuclear weapons from the South also would ease North-South tensions significantly. Although North Korea has nuclear-capable weapons, such as the FROG-VII missile, the United States does not contend that Pyongyang has a nuclear capability or is storing nuclear warheads. The rationale for the U.S. nuclear presence in the South is that it deters a conventional attack by the North's larger army. Many specialists, citing the conventional balance, challenge this argument. But in any case, nuclear weapons do not have to be deployed and stored in Korea itself because they could be brought to the scene rapidly from nearby aircraft carriers and other ships." – ***Selig Harrison, in his article contained in Foreign Policy magazine, No. 69, Summer 1987*** –

On Overall U.S. Policy

"The time is at hand for the U.S. government and its citizens, to reflect on its historical and contemporary responsibility for the continuing tension on the Korean Peninsula and to move toward entirely new policies that would seek reduction of tension, relations with the North, and the eventual reconciliation and reunion of the two Korean states.

"Reconciliation and reunification does not have to mean the dominance of one side over the other. Perhaps through their talks North and South Korea can agree on some sort of structural arrangement which would put emphasis on those things which both sides favor and which would be mutually beneficial, such as trade, and which would not focus primarily on the issues of disagreement." – ***Bruce Cumings, associate professor of the University of Chicago, in his article contained in the book entitled "Two Koreas–One Future?"*** –

"We encourage Washington and Seoul to demonstrate creativity and flexibility in their continuing search for ways to reduce confrontation with North Korea and to revitalize the dialogue after south Korean domestic politics have settled down."

". . . the United States should discuss frankly with the ROK the American national interest in reducing tensions on the peninsula and in having both Seoul and Washington pursue policies that foster the North-South dialogue. Whether the issue is direct contact or trade with the North, military exercises, visa policy or the number of parties sitting at the negotiating table, the American objectives remain strengthening the prosperity and security of the South and reducing tensions throughout Korea and the region." – ***"Korea at the Crossroads", a study group report prepared by the Council on Foreign Relations and the Asia Society*** –

"Pyongyang has for years blamed North-South Korean tensions on the U.S. military presence and the high level of U.S.-R.O.K. military exercises. Particularly sharp rhetoric has been directed at the annual "Team Spirit" military exercise, the largest annual exercise in the world. Conducted for the past ten years, in 1987 Team Spirit involved over 200,000 south Korean and American forces and lasted for about three months. Whether of genuine concern to North Korea or not, it at least provides a pretext for Pyongyang's noncooperation, and it is frequently cited by the Chinese as an irritant that only enhances Moscow's leverage.

"The United States may be forced for purely budgetary reasons to cut back on the scope of the Team Spirit exercise in future years. But, particularly in light of Pyongyang's announced stand-down from major field exercises since early 1986, the United States should seize the initiative to reduce–in meaningful measure–both the scale and duration of the exercise. This need not harm south Korean readiness or U.S.-R.O.K. collaboration and it could signal American willingness to engage in further reciprocal steps. In any case, it would put the ball back in the North Korean court.

"Beyond these rather limited measures, the United States should press the R.O.K. government to develop joint positions on long-term mutual and balanced force reductions to be negotiated with North Korea as well as the conditions under which they could be discussed with Pyongyang." – ***William Gleysteen, former U.S. ambassador to south Korea, and Alan Romberg, senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, in their article contained in Foreign Affairs magazine, Vol. 65, No. 5, Summer 1987*** –

On the Chun Regime

"The present government's record is a paradoxical blend of competent rule and transparent unpopularity. Although there is reason to question whether the opposition is inherently more democratic than the current rulers, there is no question about the essentially authoritarian character of President Chun Doo Hwan's government, generally seen by Koreans as self-appointed through an army coup, besmirched by the bloody 1980 Kwangju incident (where 200 or more died), hobbing all potential opposition forces with a web of repressive measures, and disappointing those who had hoped it would be above corruption." – ***William Gleysteen and Alan Romberg*** –

"Pressure for democratic development is often focused on the question of legitimacy. With only brief exceptions, Korea has not experienced an open political process. Successive governments have come into power by military coup and have ruled through an authoritarian structure in which the military has wielded an ultimate veto. Although many Koreans acknowledge the economic and social progress achieved, the administration of President Chun Doo Hwan has never been accepted as 'legitimate' because of the way it came to power and because of its behavior since." – ***"Korea at the Crossroads"*** –

On the "Threat" from North Korea

"The south Korean Government has convinced many Americans that the menace facing south Korea comes from a possible invasion or subversion of the south by the Communist North. This, the Government feels, justifies its harsh rule and disregard for human rights. But it has its reasoning backward.

"Under present conditions, the North would not be foolhardy enough to take on the South, especially in light of the American tripwire of ground forces and air bases in south Korea. Only strong Soviet or Chinese backing could trigger an invasion from the North, but neither the Soviet Union nor China shows the slightest desire to get embroiled in such a hazardous military adventure. A northern invasion of the South has little credibility and northern subversion even less." – ***Edwin Reischauer, former United States ambassador to Japan, and Edward Baker, assistant director of the Harvard-Yenching Institute, in their article in The New York Times Magazine, Nov. 16, 1986*** –

EDITORIAL

Washington Helps Roh Prolong Military Regime

When it was published in last June, Roh Tae Woo's "June 29 statement" promised to immediately realize the democratization of south Korea.

However, even a modicum of democracy is yet to be seen.

In actuality, the "statement" became meaningless when Chun Doo Hwan on Aug. 21 told a press conference that the authorities would resolutely suppress "pro-communists" and "leftists."

This shows that Chun-Roh regime had no intention from the beginning to install a democratic government.

The regime's suppressive nature is seen in the fact that after the "statement" was made public, some 700 people were detained in connection with labor disputes and democratization activities.

After the national referendum on the constitutional revision in October, Roh Tae Woo, as the presidential candidate of the ruling Democratic Justice Party, has been doing everything he can to secure the military regime.

In Kwangju, where Roh played a key role in killing thousands of citizens in May 1980, he disguised himself as a "protector of human rights", holding "discussions" at a "luncheon" with the bereaved families of those who were killed in the uprising.

On the other hand, he deliberately fueled "regional antagonism" in order to split the votes for the opposition candidates, Kim Dae Jung and Kim Young Sam.

To prolong its stay in power, the Chun-Roh regime is resorting to all kinds of illegalities such as bribery, blackmail, slander and deception.

Meanwhile, the United States, pretending to be concerned with the democratization of the south Korean society, is in fact backing the ruling circles actively in order to secure the most important post for its Asian strategy.

The Reagan administration in last September invited Roh to Washington, as a gesture of support for him and to help him win popularity.

Washington also sent to south Korea former president Gerald Ford, Undersecretary of State Michael Armacost and Assistant Secretary of State Gaston Sigur, to create a "favourable atmosphere" for Roh's election as president.

Today, who becomes the next south Korean president is a matter of intense interest abroad.

"Streams of American officials – from the State Department to Congress to the CIA – were said to have made trips to south Korea to sound out the prospects," and one former south Korean army chief of staff is reported to have "predicted that Roh may have an 80-percent chance of losing, 'if things continue the way they are.' " **(The Japan Times, Nov. 12, 1987)**

If there is not much chance for Roh to win the race, it can easily be predicted that the ruling circles will do "anything" to win.

Washington should not back up Roh Tae Woo, ignoring the south Korean people's desire for an end to the military regime and the world public's call for democracy in south Korea.

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